



## **Week 2**

### **Humble Pie**

#### **Intro:**

We started a new series last week titled Gladiator. It makes me think about the warriors that had to fight for their freedom, fight to stay alive, and battle some extreme odds.

These Gladiators were prisoners or slaves and were used to fight to entertain people in the famous coliseum. The author of the book of Philippians was Paul and he wrote this book while he was in prison in Rome. The term Gladiator fits a description of who Paul was. He was a Gladiator for Christ. He would sacrifice everything so the Gospel could be advanced and Christ's name would be lifted up. We desire to be a Gladiator for Christ. This week we are looking at Philippians chapter 2 as Paul describes the humility of Christ and how he lived His life thinking of others before Himself.

*(Start sharing how humble you are and the how this is something that comes natural for you. Share all the things you do for others. You are setting them up to explain that is the opposite of humility. Have fun with this and exaggerate big.)*

What I was just doing is the opposite of “humility” and that is “pride”. We are prideful people. Our culture tells us to be the opposite of humble. It convinces us that humility is weak and we should strive to look out for ourselves. However, we know that God has a better plan and desires us not to be consumed in our own little world, but to think of others. That’s where the joy is in life. That is where the fun is in life. Humility is defined in Philippians chapter 2. Jesus gives us his life as an example of what true humility looks like. Let’s dive into chapter 2 of Philippians together.

### **Read Philippians 2:3-4**

What does selfish ambition mean? “Do nothing out of selfish ambition” Paul writes. I believe ambition is good. Ambition drives us to be a better student or a better athlete. However, selfish ambition is not so good. Selfish ambition drives us to achievements meant to satisfy our own wants and desires while forgetting the needs of others. Selfish ambition drives a teen to trash another teen on Facebook so he can feel better about himself/herself. Selfish ambition makes a teen care less that most of the world lives without clean drinking water. Selfish ambition is often satisfied at the expense of others. It goes on to say, “But in humility consider others better than yourselves.” Stop for a moment. Better than myself. C’mon, really. We are in non-stop 24/7 pursuit of making ourselves look and seem like we are better than anyone else around us. We desire attention. We desire to make others feel inferior so we can consume the glory. Right?

*(Share a story of how you did this growing up or have a student shares on this)*

At the end of the day, if we are really honest, this pursuit of making ourselves look good and trying to get the attention really wears us out. I'm exhausted and I think you are too. Paul is trying to tell us that there is a better way. A more joy-filled life is achieved by looking to the interests of others and walking in humility.

*(Share a story of a time when you served others and considered others needs more important and how that left you filled with joy.)*

Christ gave us the example of true humility. Paul articulates this in verse 8. Speaking of Jesus he says, "And being found in human form," [God became a man] "he humbled himself" [Jesus Christ]. "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Here's what he is saying. Jesus is the most humble person and his death on the cross was the most humble act in the history of the world. When Jesus went to the cross, he died in my place for my sins. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his love for us in this while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God left glory and came humbly. God left his throne and was humbly born in a barn. God left being worshiped by angels continually to grow up and become a carpenter. He came humbly from heaven to be disrespected by religious Pharisees. He came humbly to be betrayed by stubborn, self-righteous, proud people, like you and me. And how did I – how did we respond to God? We put him on a cross to die. And in His death, he is so humble that he died for me and you that we might have salvation. Through His humble death for our sins, he reconciled us with God. In dying on the cross, he was our substitute and he paid the penalty of death for our sins. All of our sin goes on Jesus, and

all of his perfection is given to us. My condemnation goes on Jesus and his salvation comes to me. Through this humble death and great exchange, God now forgives me and gives me a new life.

I want to read Philippians 2:5-11. Just listen and think about Christ's humility and what this means for us.

### **Read Philippians 2:5-11**

How is our attitude? Is it full of pride? Have we been selfish lately? Are we just thinking of ourselves and forgetting that Christ is calling us to a life that is not about us, but about considering others before ourselves. Humility is really about putting others first. Jesus demonstrated that by giving his life for us. May we put others first as we walk down the halls of school. May we be mindful of a friend who is going through a rough day and needs to talk...even if we are in a hurry. May we make time for people who need encouragement. My prayer is that as a group, we can represent Christ by thinking of one another here in this place and putting each other ahead of ourselves. My prayer is that we can humble ourselves and look to the needs of this community and see how we can make a difference by serving.

### **Conclusion**

**Option 1** – Have a time of invitation to receive Jesus as their personal Savior.

**Option 2** - Challenge your students to take a few minutes to fill out the paper with two questions written on it and turn it into you so you can follow up with them and their action step.

1. Have I been selfish lately? In what areas have I been selfish?
2. After I leave this place tonight, how can my attitude reflect Christ's humility?  
(What action step[s] will I take?)

**Action Steps (These are examples and you can apply them to your group)**

- ❖ **Asking forgiveness from someone I hurt**
- ❖ **Go and serve outside the church: a neighbor, a friend, or find a service project to do**
- ❖ **Sit next to a person at school that may be made fun of**
- ❖ **Buy someone lunch at school tomorrow that may seem to be a bit of a loner and sit next to them**
- ❖ **I will be quick to listen and slow to speak this week (James 1:19)**

**Option 3** – Get into small groups and discuss these 3 questions.

1. What are some examples of living a life of humility?
2. What are some ways you can both individually and as a group represent the attitude of Christ to others?
3. How as a group can we look to the interests of others in our community?